

## **Somersworth Historical District Commission Meeting Wednesday, July 24, 2019**

### **In Attendance:**

Laura Barry, Chair  
Edward Levasseur, City Councilor  
George Poulin, Commissioner  
Lindsey Gagnon, Commissioner  
Shanna Saunders, Director of Development

### **In Absentia:**

Pius Charles Murray, Secretary  
Matthew Gerding, Commissioner  
Tim Metivier, Building Inspector  
Vacant Seat, Vice-Chair

### **Petitioners Present:**

Matthew Kochka  
Kimberly A. Shoen

### **Called to order: 7:00pm**

1. Projects of Minimal Impact Report
  - a. Ms. Saunders read this month's report which included 1 application. 12 Linden Street submission for re-roofing from shingle to shingle and was approved.
2. Public Comments
  - a. Richard Brooks spoke and thanked the Historic District Commission for being able to work with the board and for all the work the HDC does. He hopes to try again next year.
3. Meeting Minutes
  - a. Motion to approve by Mr. Levasseur seconded by Mr. Poulin. Motion passed 4-0
4. Old Business
  - a. None
5. New Business
  - a. **Matthew Kochka, 23 Linden Street, HDC #029-2019**
    - i. Mrs. Barry provided a brief description of the proposed project.
    - ii. Mr. Kochka introduced himself and stated that the project is to replace 39 wood framed windows with double hung vinyl replacement windows. This will allow for the remove of the storm windows and be cost effective and energy efficient. The windows would match the same style window that it is replacing, ie 2 over 2 will stay 2 over 2 and so on.
    - iii. Mrs. Barry asked about the attic window. She wanted to confirm whether he would be replacing or repairing this decorative window in the future. Mr. Kochka explained that the goal is to repair it in the future as it is not used very

often and is still in fairly good shape. Also the cost would be too much to try and replace it with a vinyl replica of that decorative windows glazing.

iv. Motion to approve by Mr. Poulin seconded by Mr. Levasseur. Motion passed 4-0.

b. Other new business:

**i. Kimberly A. Shoen, 125 High Street, HDC #030-2019**

1. Ms. Saunders provided a brief description of the reason this item came before the Commission. The application is for a roof replacement and is enough of an emergency, with the coming rain and leaking issue, that the applicant has been asked to attend this meeting for an emergency discussion of the application. She will be on next month's agenda for an official vote on the application.
2. Mrs. Barry asked Ms. Saunders if asphalt was approved for this property in the past. Ms. Saunders said yes, and that the owner is aware of which sections are and are not slate. The proposed application is to replace a slate portion of the roof with asphalt shingles.
3. The owner Ms. Shoen introduced herself and described the property and prior years' worth of projects and her passion for preserving the historic character of the house. In the past she has been able to have the slate repaired and replaced, but these repairs have since failed and are the cause of a continual leaking issue. Pictures were provided to show the interior damage from the water leaking through this section of the roof. This portion of the roof is the uppermost portion and not visible from the road as the proposed plan is to only replace from the top of the mansard (the curved sides of the roof) to the peak/crest. This would mimic the look of the adjacent roof on the property that was approved and installed before Ms. Shoen purchased the home. She described that some of the leaking is potentially from the slate and the asphalt meeting in the valley of the 2 peaks/crests along with poor workmanship in the past. The asphalt proposed is called the Slate Line and is made to mimic the look of slate.
4. Ms. Shoen described the state of the apartment located under this portion of the roof. She also described the condition of the roof currently and went through the pictures provided to the Commission. Mrs. Barry described her hope for keeping as much slate as possible and gave Ms. Shoen additional resources for preserving slate roofs in the future.
5. Mrs. Barry asked about the spray foam in the roof and if that could affect the leaking issues. Ms. Shoen said that there are roof vents so it should not be an issue.
6. Mr. Levasseur noted that he felt the iron fencing/ice-melts that surround the top of the roof is important to keep or replace with a similar ice-melt.

7. Mrs. Barry asked if any of the slate will be salvaged and Ms. Shone said she would ask the contractor to try and salvage what he can. She does however feel that it will be hard to do so since there is so much damage and is not easy to salvage with the tar that has been used up there.
8. It was agreed by the Commission that this would likely be accepted as proposed and ratify it at next month's meeting, but noted that the iron ice-melt be replaced if removed and to try and salvage what she can for slate. Additionally if this would come before the Commission in the future to replace the mansard that slate would be preferred.
9. Ms. Saunders said that this does not need to be an official vote as it next month will be the official vote. The project can start but at the applicants own risk as the work can be stopped based on concerned abutters.
10. There was continued discussion about grants in regards to how and who can receive them for future projects along with contractors and resources.

**ii. Officer Elections**

Mr. Poulin nominated Lindsey Gagnon for Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Levasseur. Motion passed.

- iii. Ms. Saunders provided a brief description of NH DOT letter put before the commission. It is a fact finding letter seeking any insight as to things that need to be considered during the Route 108 project regarding cultural and/or historical resources.

c. Closing comments by visitors: None

**6. Workshop Business**

- a. Ms. Gagnon and Mrs. Barry attended the cemetery headstone cleaning workshop put on by the Cemetery Trustee Committee. It was a great experience learning how to upright and clean the headstones in the Forest Glade Cemetery.

**7. Communications and Miscellaneous**

- a. Cemetery Trustee Committee is hosting musicians at the Ferber Chapel on Sunday 7/28/19 and will be filmed to view on channel 22.
- b. A big thank you to Richard Brooks for his dedication to the commission and the city.

8. Motion to adjourn by Mr. Poulin second by Ms. Gagnon @ 7:52pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Lindsey Gagnon